**RIBCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Council meeting held at 7-30pm on Monday 15 April 2019 at SS Peter & Paul's Parish Centre, Ribchester**

**PRESENT:**

Vice-Chairman: E Law-Riding

Councillors:

A Brown, J Dickinson, C Milne, G Rollinson, D Royle

Borough Councillor: D Smith

The Vice-Chairman, Cllr Law-Riding, paid tribute to the former Chairman, Cllr Ian Sayers, who had died the previous week, describing him as a 'Perfect English Gentleman'. The Council then kept a minute's silence.

**113 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** There were no declarations.

# **114 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

An issue had been raised, prior to the meeting, unfortunately, the persons concerned were unable to attend. The matter was of significant importance to the Village and was moved to Agenda item 10 for full consideration.

## 1**15** **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18 March 2019 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Vice-Chairman.

# **116 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

In respect of Min 109, the Clerk had been unable to contact the Highways Department in raise the matter of road markings. This would be carried forward to report to the May Council meeting.

In respect of Minute 111, further information about the proposed Information Board for the Millennium Garden had been obtained from DAB (supplier), when it had been confirmed that the Oak Board had suitable drainage holes to allow rainwater to escape and would not gather in the frame causing rot. It had also been confirmed that the materials used were vandal/graffiti proof to a high level.

**RESOLVED** To confirm support for the acquisition and installation of an information board in the Millennium Garden.

**ACTION** Further information to be sought about appropriate sources of funding. The Clerk to contact former sponsors of the Garden to request further sponsorship.

# **117 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Two non-urgent planning applications had been received from RVBC. Given the other issues currently being faced by the Council, it was agreed to hold over the applications until an appropriate time in the month.

**ACTION** Clerk to circulate, under normal procedures

# **118 FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS: ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT FOR FINANCIAL YEAR**

**2018/19**

The Annual Statement of Accounts is in four parts, of which the Council is required to complete part 1 (Annual Governance Statement) at this meeting.

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| **RESOLVED****119****RESOLVED****NOTED****120****ACTION****121****ACTIONS****RESOLVED** | That the Statement of Assurance listed at Section 1 of the Return be completed and approved without amendment**FINANCIAL MATTERS/ACCOUNTS**1 That the following payments be made:Clerk: Clerical Services (Mar/Apr) + Travel Expenses (to Bank) £250.10 £10.10£260.20SS Peter & Pauls: Room Hire £25.00HMRC: PAYE payment (\*see note below) 210.00 2 The Clerk reported the receipt of the following income:Andrew Margerison: lease of Grimshaw Quarry £500.OO\*That during preparation of the year-end figures it had come to light that a cheque (dated 16 December 2018) made payable to HMRC for PAYE due for the period to 5 April had not been received (posted the same month). The above payment rectifies this problem. The Council noted — with disquiet — the unfortunate remark made by HMRC about the cheque being 'lost in the post' and refuted any implied criticism of the former Clerk.**REPORT ON UNCONTESTED ELECTION**It was reported that there had been seven (7) nominations for the May Parish Council Elections to be held on 2 May 2019. As there are only seven posts, the Returning Officer had declared an Uncontested Election: notice of which had been posted in the village.The death of Cllr Sayers shortly after this declaration had left the Council with one vacancy, which needs to be filled by co-option.That Councillors would identify suitable candidates to be put forward for a co-opted position on the Council.**MATTERS RELATING TO THE PARISH** **Rights of Way.**Two concerns had been raised in respect of changes to Rights of Way/Access.1. Several villagers had made complaints about access to the Right of Way across Parsonage Farm land to the Double pits being blocked. The advice received from the LCC Rights of Way Office was that the Parish Council should undertake an inspection, noting grid references etc and report this to the Office. LCC would then send out an Inspector who would take any further action necessary.
2. Mr & Mrs Fletcher, of The Old Stables, 29 Water Street, had been shocked to find that The Weind (adjacent to their property) had been reclassified in 2017 as having 'No public Right of Access', which a recent land search had identified. Advice received from the same LCC office was that as much evidence as possible should be gathered to demonstrate 'that it has been used by the general public for 20 years or more without interruption or secrecy'. It also states that 'it can be claimed if it is shown on old maps and documents as evidence that a route has existed and could have been used by the public for many years'

Cllr Milne and the Clerk to 'walk the course' on Parsonage Farm to investigate the complaint in 1 above.Clerk to publicise the problem of change of access to The Weind, to collect materials and prepare a 'portfolio of evidence' to support Mr & Mrs Fletcher and to forward to LCC Rights of Way Office.**Date for Annual Parish Meeting**It was resolved to hold the Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday 9 May at 7.30pm |



## **Report from RVBC**

As there was no item on this Agenda reporting matters relating to Principal Councils, Cllr Smith updated the meeting on recent decisions taken at Borough level.

**NOTED** 1 That RVBC continued to work to support Cllr Sayer's project to improve the state of Preston Road on the approach into Ribchester. Cllr Smith assured the meeting that the pothole issue was still on the Agenda, and would be resolved as soon as practicable.

2 That the issue of the lack of drain outside the Cherry Yate property would be resolved.

# **122 BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION/PARISH SPRING CLEAN**

The Clerk reported that there had been a good response to the call for help with the Parish Spring Clean on 13 April. Around 15 villagers, plus a group of Cubs and their leader Kim Greaves, had turned out and collected 20+ bags of rubbish. There had also been cleaning down of the Millennium Garden Railings some of those near the River and the rubbish bins and signs at the end of Church Street.

**NOTED** That although the amount of rubbish collected was smaller than in previous years, this was taken to be a positive sign that more people are taking their rubbish home, or that many members of the village voluntarily pick up and remove rubbish on a regular basis. Overall, the village appears to be in good order. There is a list of tasks to be undertaken in May to get it 'Competition Ready' for judging in June/July. (Further publicity will be given to the BKV Competition in the coming month).

# **123 OTHER CORRESPONDENCE**

The Vice-Chairman commended the Tribute to Cllr Sayers which had been published by the RV Conservative Party and is available on its website.

## **124 NEXT MEETING**

 The next meeting of the Parish Council, will be its Annual Meeting and will take place on

 Wednesday 1 May 2019 at SS Peter and Pauls Parish Centre at 7.30pm

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.14pm

Confirmed as a true record

  Chairman  Date